

ABSTRACT

A conference bridge is provided for managing a conference between media signal sources generating media data packets conveying encoded media information and encoding type information. The media signal sources, in order to enter a conference, generate link messages including respective supported encoding types and transmit the link messages to the conference bridge. The conference bridge receives the link messages and processes them to derive a first common encoding type supported all media signal sources in the conference and a second encoding type supported a subset of media signal sources in the conference. The conference bridge generates link message reply signals conveying the first encoding type and the second encoding type the subset of media signal sources and conveying at least the first encoding type to the media signal sources other than the subset of all media signal sources. Each media signal source is responsive to the link message reply signal to render active at least the first encoding type and selectively render active the second encoding type.